

**From:** Joe Swafford  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/31/01 10:32pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To all concerned:

Microsoft is a great and innovative company which has contributed immensely to the American economy. They are a symbol of the American dream. They have fore-sight, ingenuity, and determination. They innovate to make the best possible software solutions which have made our lives easier, simpler, and more enjoyable. They are aggressive and pervasive. I admire this company; a company which is truly an American business icon. I cannot say enough good things about Microsoft because they have truly helped shape the future of our country and the future of our planet.

That being said, I must admit that I do not agree with some of the business practices in which Microsoft has chosen to pursue. I would never want Microsoft to stop innovating or developing top-notch products. I would never want them to cease as the business entity they are today. But I cannot, with a clear conscience, admit that they have participated in practices which have not stifled competition. I am just an average consumer. I could say nothing and be perfectly happy with using my Microsoft products and nothing else. However, I think our country is the greatest country on this planet for a reason. I believe that reason is opportunity; the opportunity of success without unfair interference.

I feel there has been a major swing in respect to the legal aspect of this antitrust case. It seems the tone of this case has changed. It seems the seriousness of this case has changed. It seems the outcome of this case has changed. It seems the judicial process has changed. In effect, it seems the whole development of this case has been tainted due to a change in political power or a change in the agenda of the government because of the current economic environment.

It disturbs me to think that our judicial process is influenced to such an extreme by the other powers of our government. Whether it is from the legislative or executive branch; this doesn't matter. What matters to me is that the principles of our founding fathers are preserved and that we always do the "right thing".

Again, I think Microsoft is one of the most extraordinary companies in history. Microsoft is a company which will be in textbooks and will remain a strong contributor to our economy regardless of this legal matter. I still cannot understand how a court can overlook the code mixing of Internet Explorer and the Windows operating system. This is an obvious example of "bundling" which is never mentioned in the final

judgment of the antitrust case.

As a native born American consumer who appreciates Microsoft and its software, I am not disappointed in Microsoft. I am disappointed in our judicial process for allowing the letter of the law to be misconstrued and distorted in order to serve the interests of the lobbyists, the politicians, the big money making machines, and the special interest groups. I think in the end, the consumer has lost and this is very sad. Because, when it comes right down to it, the individual consumer is the one who makes our economy work.

Thanks for your time,

A Microsoft fan who disagrees with a few things